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Alida Muller-Wehlau Named NCAA Woman of the Year Top 30 Finalist





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Armstrong Atlantic State University women's tennis standout **Alida Muller-Wehlau** has been selected as one of the Top 30 honorees for the 2011 NCAA Woman of the Year award, announced today by the NCAA.

The NCAA Woman of the Year Award, now in its 21st year, honors female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in academic achievement, athletic excellence, community service and leadership.

Muller-Wehlau is the first nominee from Armstrong, as well as the Peach Belt Conference, to be selected among the Top 30 honorees. 10 finalists each from Division I, Division II and Division III made the final list, with the 2011 NCAA Woman of the Year to be announced during the Woman of the Year dinner in Indianapolis on Oct. 16.

A three-time NCAA Division II National Champion for the Lady Pirates, Muller-Wehlau is a four-time ITA All-American in Armstrong women's tennis in both singles and doubles. The 2011 Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year, as well as the 2010-11 Armstrong Female Student-Athlete of the Year, Muller-Wehlau graduated in May with a degree in economics, capping an outstanding career in which she compiled a 130-21 overall singles and 156-19 overall doubles record.

The Hamburg, Germany, native delivered the match-clinching point in Armstrong's 2008 NCAA DII Championship match, earning PBC Freshman of the Year honors that season. As a sophomore, she was the top-ranked DII doubles player in the nation in helping Armstrong to a second consecutive national title in 2009. The ITA's "Player To Watch" in 2010, Muller-Wehlau again led Armstrong to a national title, helping the Pirates become just the second team in DII history to win three consecutive women's tennis championships.

Muller-Wehlau's senior season began with an impressive Fall in which she captured the ITA Division II National Singles title and teamed with Barbora Krtickova to win the ITA "Super Bowl" doubles title, advancing to the ITA National Indoor Championships, where the duo - as the only non-Division I entrants in the field - captured the consolation bracket with wins over Utah and Stanford.

The senior went 33-6 overall in singles in 2010-11 and teamed with Krtickova to go 35-4 overall in doubles, again ranking No. 1 in the nation in doubles while earning 2011 Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year honors as well as 2011 PBC Tournament singles and doubles MVP honors. In addition to her other honors, Muller-Wehlau was also the Armstrong President's Cup award winner as awarded by the Savannah Exchange Club.

"Alida Mueller-Wehlau embodies the essence of what is best among student-athletes," University President Dr. Linda

Bleicken said. "She is a gifted individual, both on the court and in the classroom. She approaches all that she does with a focus on excellence, and she inspires excellence in those around her. With Alida, individual achievement is never enough; she pursues accomplishment on behalf of her entire team.

"What an honor it is to recognize her as the first female athlete from both Armstrong and the Peach Belt Conference to win recognition among the Top 30 NCAA Woman of the Year honorees, and what a pleasure it is to know her as a human being."

In addition to her exploits on the court, Muller-Wehlau was active in the Armstrong Student-Athlete Advisory Council all four years as a Pirate. She served as a German tutor to Armstrong students and also participated in community service activities with the Make-A-Wish foundation and the Second Harvest Food Bank in Savannah, as well as Armstrong's "Treasure Savannah" Day of Service.

A four-time PBC Presidential Honor Roll honoree, Muller-Wehlau was a two-time PBC All-Academic Team honoree as well as a 2011 CoSIDA Academic All-District III At-Large honoree.

"To be selected as one of the top 30 honorees of the 2011 NCAA Woman of the Year award is overwhelming and means so much to me," Muller-Wehlau said. "It was already an honor to be nominated by Armstrong and the Athletic Department and being selected from the Peach Belt as the conference nominee was another big honor. Now, being among the top 30 honorees and being able to take part in the ceremony in Indianapolis is just an unbelievably great feeling. I am so happy about this! Thanks to Armstrong and to everyone who supported me and voted for me!"

The selection committee will now narrow the Top 30 to three finalists from each division to form the Top Nine, which will be announced in early September. The NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics will select the national winner from the Top Nine honorees. All members of the Top 30 will descend upon Indianapolis on Oct. 16 for the 2011 NCAA Woman of the Year awards dinner at the Indiana Convention Center's 500 Ballroom.

"It's hard to be surprised when Alida receives any recognition, but in this case, given the circumstances, it is certainly a tremendous honor for her to be included in such illustrious company," Armstrong head tennis coach Simon Earnshaw said. "We've made an effort to try and have some outreach with our program and be involved beyond just what is regularly expected by a student-athlete on our women's tennis team. This shows the value of that and what can be accomplished if someone goes the extra yard to be selfless and give so much of their time to others."

Please click [here](#) for the complete release on the Top 30 finalists for the 2011 NCAA Woman of the Year award from [ncaa.org](#).



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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